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A PROPOSED SUMMARY OF THE VITAL STATISTICS OF NEW ENGLAND.

The registration of the statistics of marriages, births, and deaths has been conducted for a greater length of time and with greater uniformity of methods in the New England states than in any other portion of the Union. Beginning with a simple statute in 1639 in the Massachusetts Colony, requiring a record of every marriage, birth, and death, there has been an increasing recognition of the necessity of better and more uniform legislation from that time to the present. No reports were made upon the subject until the publication of the first Registration Report of Massachusetts for the year 1842. This was followed by reports from the remaining states as follows: Rhode Island beginning with 1853; Vermont, 1857; Connecticut, 1874; New Hampshire, 1880; and, finally, by the first report of Maine, recently issued, for the year 1892.

In consequence of the publication of this first report of the vital statistics of Maine, it will now be possible to issue a combined summary of the essential data contained in these six reports. For this purpose the secretaries of the Boards of Health of the six New England states formed a simple federation at Montreal, at the meeting of the American Public Health Association, in September, 1894, and decided to publish shortly a combined digest or summary of the Vital Statistics of the New England States. The first issue will contain the summary of statistics for 1892, after which others will probably be published at intervals of about five years; the second to contain the statistics for 1895. The subjects to be presented will be a statement of the population, rate of growth, density, distribution by sexes, and estimates for intercensal years since 1880; marriages by ages, nativity, months, and marriage rates; births by sexes, months, parentage, still births, plurality, illegitimacy, and birth rates; deaths by ages, months, sex, nativity, principal causes, and death rates.

There will be in addition a summary of the vital statistics of each city and town of more than 10,000 population, including the marriages, births, deaths, and principal causes of death in each.

The objects to be secured by such a publication are two-fold. First, the publication of the results obtained in each state in connection with those of five other states will tend to secure greater uniformity in methods of presentation of the different data, together with a more

perfect and complete collection of the facts essential to registration; second, it is hoped that such a summary may prove a stimulus to the introduction of registration in states where no registration exists, and to its improvement where the laws are very loosely enforced.

STATISTICS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Statistik der Infectiosen Erkrankungen in den Jahren 1881-91, und Untersuchung der Einflusses der Witterung. By Josef Körösi, Director des Communal-statistischen Bureaus, Budapest. Berlin, 1894. Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht.

Statistics relating to mortality are obtainable at the present day from almost all civilized nations, but those which relate to morbidity or sickness are much more rare. Almost the only statistics of this character collected in the United States are those of the State Board of Health of Michigan, compiled by Dr. Baker, the Secretary of the Board. The adoption of laws, however, in other states and countries, requiring notification of infectious diseases, will undoubtedly secure better results in the future in this direction.

The pamphlet before us contains in its 141 pages a fund of information carefully compiled by the well-known statistician, Körösi. The work is divided into two parts, Epidemiological and Climatological. The means of information are the official notifications of certain diseases, covering a period of $10\frac{1}{2}$ years, from July 5, 1881, to December 31, 1891. The diseases under observation were croup, diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, small-pox, typhoid fever, and cholera.

In addition to the statistics of prevalence of these diseases, one brief chapter treats of the influence of unfiltered water on the spread of typhoid fever, and another upon the enforcement of vaccination, a topic which Körösi had previously made the subject of several valuable papers. Another chapter is devoted to international statistics of infectious diseases.

Another valuable chapter treats of the influence of Preventive Regulations upon the Improvement of Sanitary Conditions. Taking two nearly equal periods, 1872-80 and 1881-91, there is a decided improvement in Budapest, vigorous prophylactic regulations having been inaugurated in 1881. The mortality from infectious diseases